

RE: COVID Mandate Protests // Request from RCMP to Close Coutts POE

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Date: Fri, 11 Feb 2022 18:54:09 +0000
Attachments: K - CO - LTR - to Mr. Brad Wozny, Regional Director General, Prairie Region CBSA re Coutts Border Crossing - 2022-02-11.pdf (133.9 kB)

Please see attached the formal written request from the RCMP to close the port of Coutts to the movement of northbound traffic.

We will await a decision along with relevant authorities to proceed (or not). RCMP understands that this request will be briefed up and that a decision will be communicated as soon as reasonably possible. From their perspective a decision on this is not immediately urgent.

Thanks

Brad

From: Badour, Dan <Dan.Badour@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca>
Sent: February 10, 2022 8:57 PM
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Subject: COVID Mandate Protests // Request from RCMP to Close Coutts POE

Good evening,

Earlier this evening, US CBP at the port of Sweetgrass MT/Coutts AB encountered 5 tractor-trailers travelling northbound to Canada at their outbound checkpoint. s.38

s.38

CBSA BSOs processed the tractor-trailers and released from port where they proceeded northbound and were intercepted by the RCMP at the checkpoint North of Coutts. The presence of the trucks agitated the protestors and a request from the RCMP Incident Commander was received requesting that the CBSA fully close the POE at Coutts if s.38

s.38

At present, the CBSA POE at Coutts remains open with CBSA staff onsite, the POE was never formally closed. CBSA communications have advised clients that the POE remains open but travellers are advised that there may be delays due to the blockages in the area.

RDG Wozny is now contacting the RCMP K Division Assistant Commissioner to confirm the RCMP request that the POE at Coutts be temporarily closed due to public safety considerations.

Once a response from the RCMP is received, we are proposing that the POE at Coutts be closed temporarily. The CBSA will maintain an operational presence at the port in the event that the blockade is lifted or emergency services are required to transit the POE. The CBSA will continue to redeploy resources from Coutts to nearby POEs to handle traveller and commercial goods diversions.

Once approved, we will work with the Communications team to prepare the necessary media products, issue a Border Alert advising of the temporary closure and work with PO to engage MINO advising of the RCMP request.

Dan Badour

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